

REMARKS

Claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, and 16 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 18, 19, and 20 have been amended. Therefore, claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, and 17-20 are currently pending.

Kanno is directed to a settlement system including a mobile communication terminal, a settlement input device, and a settlement device able to transfer money from a first account to a second account.

Blair is directed to an apparatus and method for electronic authentication of electronic transactions conducted on the Internet. According to Blair, users can create and manage an individual account for the purpose of proving one's identity and authority to access or engage in a wide variety of electronic activities such as purchasing, accessing confidential information, and authorizing transactions, etc. User devices are connected to a security system that maintain the individual accounts and communicate with participating vendors.

Sanders is directed to a system for rules based electronic funds transaction processing including a business layer configured to receive electronic funds transaction data from a source. The business layer processes the electronic funds transaction data according to at least one of multiple independent rules.

As illustrated in FIG. 1 of the present invention, a first communication controller controls communication with a salesperson terminal 100 via a first internet 200, and the first communication controller controls communication with a customer mobile terminal 400 through a second internet 500.

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-4, 7-12, 15-18, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0049454 (Kanno) in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0049467 (Blair).

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 3, 7, 9, 11, 15, and 17-18 are patentable over Kanno in view of Blair, as neither Kanno nor Blair, taken alone or in combination, teaches or suggests a first communication controller controlling communication with the salesperson terminal through a first internet and communication with the customer mobile terminal through a second internet, nor do the references teach or suggest an electronic-payment support apparatus including an amount registration unit that registers at a website the amount informed from the salesperson terminal and the website including a plurality of store sites, each of the store sites including a plurality of cashiers.

As recited by the claim language, each of the cashiers is associated with each salesperson and a portal site having a function of a gateway site as an entrance to the plurality of store sites. The portal site and the plurality of store sites are accessed by the customer mobile terminal and the salesperson terminal respectively.

In contrast to the present invention, Kanno discloses a mobile communication terminal communicating with a settlement device via a mobile network by way of several other networks. As is clearly illustrated in FIG. 1, for example, the settlement device communicates over the same network. Therefore, Kanno does not teach or suggest, "a first communication controller for controlling communication with the salesperson terminal and the customer mobile terminal, the first communication controller controlling communication with the salesperson terminal through a first Internet and communication with the customer mobile terminal through a second internet," as recited in the claims.

Moreover, Kanno does not teach or suggest a salesperson terminal.

In Blair, the mobile units communicate directly via a web sales site. Therefore, Blair also does not teach or suggest a salesperson terminal.

Therefore, the above-identified claims are patentable over the references. The rejection is moot with respect to the cancelled claims.

On page 4 of the Office Action, claims 5-6, 13-14, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanno and Blair as applied to claim 3, in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0158811 (Sanders).

Although Sanders discloses a company system and mobile devices, Sanders does not teach or suggest the above-identified feature of the present invention.

Therefore, claims 5, 13, and 19 are patentable over the references, as none of the references, taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest the above-identified features of the claims. As claims 6 and 14 have been cancelled, the rejection is moot with respect to the cancelled claims.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

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If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

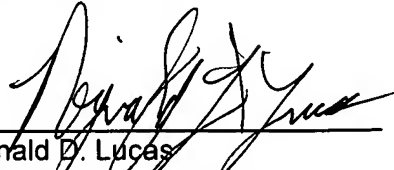
Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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4-04-06

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